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DK# 98-20

From: Bill Dagostino <Bill.DAgostino@ussurg.com>
To: A4.A4 (FCCINFO)
Date: 5/19/98 5:23pm
Subject: Opposition to TIN with ULS

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

May 15, 1998

Mr. William E. Kenard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Objections to the proposed Taxpayer Identification Number
requirement concerning Amateur Radio in Notice of Proposed Rule Making
Docket WT 98-20

I strongly object to the Commissions proposal to mandate that all
Amateur Radio applicants using the mandatory Universal Licensing System
(ULS) must supply a Taxpayer Identification Number (a.k.a., "Social
Security" number).

Back in 1977, a Federal Judge ordered the Commission to cease the
collection of all mandatory fees associated with the issuing and renewal
of Amateur Radio Licenses. This Federal Ruling was very clear, and it
stated that the Commission did NOT have the right to force Amateur Radio
Operators to tender payment in order to receive federal Amateur Radio
Licenses.

Since the Judiciary Branch of the Federal Government ruled that Amateur
Radio Operators could not be forced to pay a fee for a Amateur Radio
License, then why is the Commission attempting to force Amateur Radio
Operators to supply their Taxpayer Identification Number?!!?

Since the Federal Government prohibited the Commission from collection
mandatory fees from Amateur Radio Operators, then it is reasonable to
believe that the Commission does not have that right to mandate the
requirement for a Taxpayer Identification Number when NO mandatory fees
are being collected by the Commission!

For the record, the reason why the Federal Judiciary Branch prohibited
the Commission from collecting mandatory fees from Amateur Radio
Operators is because of the thousands of volunteer Amateur Radio
Operators who continually "save-the-day" after ever major disaster! It
is the volunteer Amateur Radio Service who consistently provide reliable
emergency commutations when all other commercial methods have failed --
disaster after disaster!

With this long history of public service, why is the Commission
attempting to harass the volunteer Amateur Radio Service by demanding a
Taxpayer Identification Number (a.k.a., "Social Security" Number)
especially when no mandatory fees can be collected by the Commission?!!?

In this highly computerized age, it is very dehumanizing to have
someone's individuals identity reduced to a measly number such as a
Taxpayer Identification Number or Social Security Number especially when
there is no need for such information! The Commission acknowledges that
abuses have occurred by others since the Commission is attempting to
allay fears of misuse of the Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) by

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claiming that "only a small number of Commission employees would have access to TIN information in conjunction with their work." Again, since the Commission does not have the right to collect mandatory fees from Amateur Radio Operators, then why would a Commission employee need this information? It appears that the only reason why the Commission seeks to collect Taxpayer Identification Numbers is to dehumanize each and every Amateur Radio Operator into a meager number inside some massive computerized database!

The Commission does attempt to "claim" that the Taxpayer Identification Number is needed to comply with Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, however, this Act does not require the collection of TINs and the Commission can still comply with the Act by easily forwarding the names and addresses of all its licensees to other Federal Departments without the TINs!

So again, I will ask the question, "Why does the Commission want to mandate the collection of TINs when the Commission does not have the right to mandate the collection of fees from Amateur Radio Operators?!?"

Finally, the Commission has acted in a hypocritical manner with the issuing of this Notice of Proposed Rule Making. The alleged reason for the implementation of the proposed Universal Licensing System is to computerize the processing of Federal Radio Licenses -- however -- the Commission boldly stated that "the FCC will not accept e-mail comments on Docket WT 98-20." If the Commission truly wished to computerize the licensing system to reduce paperwork and cost, then why is the Commission refusing to read comments concerning this proposal which are delivered by computer?!? This appears to be very hypocritical and deceptive! In addition to sending this letter to the Commission via the US Mail, I am also e-mailing it to the Commission (to see if the email version will be rejected by the Commission) as well as to my elected officials in Congress!

In conclusion, I strongly object to the Commission's proposal mandating that all Amateur Radio Operators will be forced to supply their Taxpayer Identification Number (Social Security Number) when the Federal Government has ruled that the Commission cannot collect mandatory fees from Amateur Radio Operators.

Thank you for your time in considering these comments.

Sincerely,

William L. D'Agostino
WB1DMK
19 Douglas Drive
Hamden, CT 06518
email: wb1dmk@qsl.net

CC: Jada Barnes <JBARNES@fcc.gov>